

AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

Figs. 5 and 6:

The x-axis label in each of Figs. 5 and 6 has been amended to read "Coating Number" instead of "Coating No."

The bars in each of Figs. 5 and 6 have been appropriately shaded to represent the different passes.

Fig. 7:

The x-axis label in Fig. 7 has been amended to read "Coating Number" instead of "Coating No."

The y-axis label in Fig. 7 has been amended to read "Number of Thermal Cracks" instead of "No. Thermal Cracks".

The label "Crater" has been moved from the middle of the bar representing the 3rd pass for coating no. 7 (dry milling) to the top of the bar for consistency.

The bars have been appropriately shaded to represent the different passes.

REMARKS

Specification Amendment

The specific reference to related applications in the first paragraph of the specification has been amended to clarify that previously referenced U.S. Patent 5,958,569 is the National Stage of International Application Number PCT/US96/17107 filed October 23, 1996. Further, the Applicants note that, in the Applicants' previous paper dated September 23, 2003, the phrase "issued September 28, 1999" was inadvertently omitted from this paragraph when the replacement paragraph was submitted. Accordingly, the first paragraph of the specification is amended herein to again include this language.

Applicants assert that these amendments do not add new matter to the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner recommend entry of this amendment without withdrawing the Application from issue.

Claim Amendment

A Notice of Allowance was issued in the above-identified application on November 6, 2003. However, upon review of the claims, Applicants discovered that claim 31 contains an obvious, typographical error in which the word "groups" is repeated. Accordingly, Applicants amend claim 31 herein to correct this error. Since this amendment does not add new matter or change the scope of the claims, Applicants request that the Examiner recommend entry of this amendment to clarify the record without withdrawing the Application from issue.

Formal Drawings

In the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner indicates that the drawings filed on January 9, 2002 have been accepted. The Applicant now submits formal drawings for Figs. 5-8 as to replace those currently of record and to place the drawings in a better condition for publication. As described above, Figs. 5-7 have been amended to remove abbreviations from the label and to make the shading of the bars more distinct. No

changes have been made to Fig. 8. Applicants assert that these amendments do not add new matter to the drawings or make any substantive change to the drawings. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner recommend entry of Figs. 5-8 as submitted herewith into the record without withdrawing the Application from issue.



CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner recommend entry of the aforementioned amendments to the specification and claim 31, as well as the formal drawings for Figs. 5-8, without withdrawing the Application from issue. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, the Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss.

Respectfully Submitted

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